

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 04872 150526Z

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INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IS

SUBJECT: KNESSET DEBATE ON DISAPPEARANCE OF MRS. BLOCH IN UGANDA

BEGIN SUMMARY: FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON, SPEAKING TO KNESSET JULY 13, CONDEMNED UGANDAN GOVERNMENT'S BARBARITY AND PLACED FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR DISAPPEARANCE OF MRS. DORA BLOCH ON IT. OTHER KNESSET SPEAKERS CALLED FOR RESIGNATION OF UNSYG WALDHEIM AND CONDEMNED POSITIONS ADOPTED BY SWEDEN AND MEXICO ON THE ENTEBBE RESCUE OPERATION. END SUMMARY.

1. KNESSET DEBATE JULY 13 ON THE DISAPPEARANCE OF MRS. DORA BLOCH IN UGANDA WAS OPENED BY FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON WHO, USING UNUSUALLY STRONG LANGUAGE, PLACED ENTIRE RESPONSIBILITY FOR HER DISAPPEARANCE ON THE UGANDAN GOVERNMENT AND ON IDI AMIN IN PARTICULAR. ALLON SAID, "I SHALL NOT HERE ENUMERATE ALL THE CRIMES OF THE PRESIDENT OF UGANDA...BUT HIS BEHAVIOR TOWARDS MRS. BLOCH, AN ELDERLY WOMAN INNOCENT OF ANY CRIME, HELPLESS IN HIS HANDS, CONSTITUTES THE HEIGHT OF BARBARITY EVEN BY HIS OWN BARBARIC STANDARDS..." RE-ITERATING UGANDA'S COMPLICITY WITH THE HIJACKERS, ALLON

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PAGE 02 TEL AV 04872 150526Z

NOTED THAT "MRS. BLOCH'S DISAPPEARANCE IS AN INSEPARABLE

PART OF THE AFFAIR OF THE HIJACKED AIR FRANCE PLANE'S PASSENGERS...(IN THIS AFFAIR) THE TERRORIST GANGS' CRIMINAL AIMS COMBINED WITH THE UTTERLY UNBRIDLED BARBARIC CONDUCT OF THE UGANDAN AUTHORITIES..."

2. ALLON WARNED THAT IF THIS KIND OF TERRORISM IS NOT "CUT DOWN IN ITS PRIME, IT IS LIABLE TO INCREASE IMMEASURABLY THE NIGHTMARE OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM, TO ENCOURAGE THE POWERS OF DARKNESS IN THE WORLD, AND TO THREATEN HUMAN SOCIETY IN ITS ENTIRETY..." HE ENDED WITH THE ASSERTION THAT THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT "CASTS UPON THE UGANDAN GOVERNMENT AND ITS RULER THE FULLEST RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DISAPPEARANCE AND THE FATE OF MRS. BLOCH...", ADDING THAT "THE JEWISH PEOPLE'S MEMORY IS LONG. IT NEITHER FORGETS EVIL-DOERS, NOR DOES IT CONDONE THEIR CRIMES."

3. LIKUD AND NRP SPEAKERS PRESENTED BRIEF STATEMENTS IN WHICH THEY URGED RETRIBUTION AGAINST IDI AMIN AND THE OVERTHROW OF HIS REGIME. YORAM ARIDOR (HERUT-LIKUD) NOTED THAT MRS. BLOCH HAS BEEN KIDNAPPED TWICE: "ONCE BY THE MURDERERS' ORGANIZATION AND THE SECOND TIME BY THEIR ACCOMPLICES..." HE CONDEMNED MEXICO AND SWEDEN FOR THEIR STAND ON THE ENTEBBE OPERATION AND URGED THE KNESSET TO DEMAND THE RESIGNATION OF SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM. NATIONAL RELIGIOUS PARTY MK YEHUDA BEN-MEIR ALSO CALLED ON WALDHEIM TO RESIGN. NISSIM ELIAD (INDEPENDENT LIBERAL PARTY) ATTACKED MEXICAN PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA FOR "JOINING THE FORCES OF DARKNESS AND COMPARED HIS ARGUMENTS ON SOVEREIGNTY TO THOSE USED BY NAZI CRIMINALS."

4. AT THE END OF THE DEBATE, ALL FACTIONS EXCEPT RAKAH (NEW COMMUNISTS) APPROVED A MOTION EXPRESSING THEIR CONCERN AT MRS. BLOCH'S FATE, HOLDING IDI AMIN RESPONSIBLE FOR CRIMINAL CONDUCT TOWARDS HER AND DEMANDING THAT KAMPALA REVEAL THE FULL TRUTH AS TO HER FATE.
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